Airport in West Bengal

143. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new airports proposed to be set up in West Bengal;

(b) the details of airports proposed to be upgraded in West Bengal;

(c) the time-frame proposed for completion of new airports and upgradation of the existing airports; and

(d) the total amount allotted and released for new airports and for upgradation of other airports in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government of India have accorded its 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of a domestic greenfield airport at Andal. Faridpur Blocks of Barddhaman District in West Bengal.

(b) to (d) Development of the following airports in West Bengal has been planned/undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI):

Kolkata - AAI has already commenced work of modernisation and expansion of NSCBI Airport at Kolkata with a cost of Rs.1942.51 crores to be completed by May 2011.

Behala - Additional land of 90 acres has been requested from the State Government for development. Construction of flexible pavement/taxiway and overrun with an estimated cost of Rs.4.57 crores is likely to be completed by April, 2009.

Malda - Additional land of 55 acres has been requested from the State Government for development/ operationalization of the airport for ATR type of aircraft.

Cooch Behar - This airport has been developed and declared operational *w.e.f.* from 15th August, 2007 for ATR type of aircraft operations. Construction of new terminal buildings and fire station with an estimated cost of Rs.17.16 crores is likely to be completed by May, 2009.

Bagdogra - Extension of apron and widening of taxi track with an estimated cost of Rs.18.53 crores is likely to be completed by May 2009. Construction of administrative building with an estimated cost of Rs.2.21 crores is likely to be completed by August, 2009.

User charges at airports

144. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given freedom to developers to levy user charges at Bangalore and Hyderabad airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had stipulated this clause in the initial contract with the developers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not informing the general public about the levy of user charges?